

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 03812 122058Z

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 DRC-01 PA-04

PRS-01 SS-20 SPC-03 SAM-01 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 IOE-00

( ISO ) W

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P R 122020Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6809

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SG, AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: DG SUCCESSION: PERMREP'S MEETING WITH BLAISE SENGHOR

REF: STATE 27578

1. AS EXPECTED SENEGALESE PERMREP SENGHOR, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS DEPUTY, DOUDOU DIENE, MET WITH PERMREP AND DEPUTY PERMREP IN OUR OFFICES AFTERNOON FEB 12. CONVERSATION LASTED APPROXIMATELY 40 MINUTES. SENGHOR IS GETTING READY TO LEAVE PARIS FOR DAKAR WHERE HE WILL JOIN THE SENEGALESE DELEGATION TO THE OAU MEETING IN ADDIS TO START LATER THIS MONTH.

2. SENGHOR LED OFF CONVERSATION BY STATING HE WANTED TO BRING USDEL UP TO DATE ON LATEST SUPPORT FOR M'BOW IN DG CANDIDACY. SENGHOR GAVE PERMREP TEXT OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY UNESCO AFRICA GROUP SUPPORTING M'BOW (TEXT FOLLOWS). SENGHOR STATED M,BOW HAS SOLID AFRICAN-ARAB SUPPORT. HE CONTINUED THAT THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE MEETING IN ADDIS FEB 25 AND THAT HE FULLY EXPECTED FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OF M'BOW TO COME FROM THAT MEETING.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 03812 122058Z

3. WHEN ASKED WHAT COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY FORMALLY ENDORSED M'BOW SENGHOR LISTED GAMBIA, IVORY COAST, MALI, CONGO B., DAHOMEY AND ETHIOPIA, AND ADDED THAT MEXICO AND BRAZIL HAD REPLIED POSITIVELY TO LETTERS FROM PRES SENGHOR. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT RECENT CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED IN ALGERIA HAD FAVORABLY CONSIDERED M'BOW, ALTHOUGH THERE HAD NOT BEEN A FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT. SENGHOR SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY PROBLEM IN OBTAINING SUPPORT OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

4. PERMDEL THEN ASKED ABOUT OTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATES -- E. G. FROM LATIN AMERICA OR ASIA -- SENGHOR STATED HE KNEW OF NONE AND DID NOT EXPECT THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY OTHER CANDIDATES. WHEN ASKED HIS VIEWS OF THE RUMOR THAT A FINN WOULD BE A CANDIDATE, SENGHOR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT TALKED WITH THE FINNISH DELEGATION HERE, THERE HAD BEEN A PHONE INQUIRY MADE AND THE FINNS HAD DENIED THEY WERE PUTTING UP A CANDIDATE. SENGHOR ADDED THAT IF A FINN WERE A CANDIDATE THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WOULD LIKELY SUPPORT THE FINN. SENGHOR THEN RECALLED THE STATEMENT OF SOV EXBD MEMBER TIKHVINSKY BEFORE LAST FALL'S BOARD THAT THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WOULD PRESENT A CANDIDATE. SENGHOR ADDED HE DID NOT BELIEVE ANY SOCIALIST CANDIDATE HAD A CHANCE AND THAT THE MAIN INTEREST OF THE SOVIETS WAS TO INSURE FOR EE'S THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UPCOMING GENERAL CONFERENCE.

5. WHEN ASKED IF FRENCH GOVT HAD BEEN CONTACTED RE M'BOW, SENGHOR SAID THAT PRES SENGHOR HAD RAISED THIS PERSONALLY WITH PRES POMPIDOU AND THAT FRENCH GOVT HAD INDICATED STRONG INTEREST IN THE M'BOW CANDIDACY. BLAISE SENGHOR STATED THAT AT RECENT CASTAFRICA CONFERENCE MAHEU HAD TALKED WITH PRES SENGHOR AND THAT THIS HAD BEEN MAHEU'S "LAST CHANCE". MEHEU HAD BEEN TOLD FLATLY THAT M'BOW WAS THE CANDIDATE OF PRES SENGHOR AND THAT MAHEU COULD NOT EXPECT SUPPORT FROM THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES. BLAISE SENGHOR SAID HE BELIEVES MAHEU WILL NOT CHOOSE TO RUN AGAINST M'BOW BUT WILL ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE. HE THEN RECALLED MAHEU'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE EXBD LAST FALL AND EXPRESSED SOME CONTINUING BITTERNESS OVER THE WAY IN WHICH MAHEU ANNOUNCED HIS WILLINGNESS TO STAY ON FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS. HE REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT MAHEU HAD INDICATED TO PRES SENGHOR THAT HE WOULD NOT SEEK REELECTION.

6. THERE WERE THE USUAL PLEASANTRIES ABOUT MUTUAL FRIENDS AND ABOUT VISIT TO US OF PERMREP SENGHOR IN 1961 UNDER DEPT LEADER GRANT, OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 03812 122058Z

WHICH HE STILL HAS FOND MEMORIES.

7. PERMREP CONCLUDED CONVERSATION BY THANKING SENGHOR FOR THE NEW INFORMATION AND INDICATING IT WOULD BE FULLY REPORTED TO WASHINGTON. PERDEL INDICATED HE WOULD SOON BE SEEKING MEETING WITH M'BOW TO DISCUSS WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS RELATING TO UNESCO.

SENGHOR HAD COPY OF THE LETTER FROM PRES NIXON TO PRES SENGHOR SO HE

READ IT OVER WITH PERMREP. SENGHOR SEEMED PLEASED WITH THE REPLY  
AND SEEMED PERFECTLY WILLING TO ACCEPT NO COMMITMENT AT THIS  
TIME.

8. SENGHOR PROMISED TO CALL UPON PERMREP AS SOON AS HE RETURNED  
FROM ADDIS.

9. COMMENT: THE MEETING WAS MORE OF A CAMPAIGN SPEECH FOR M'BOW  
THAN A PLEA FOR IMMEDIATE ENDORSEMENT. IMPRESSION WAS THAT SENGHOR  
DID NOT EXPECT OUR ENDORSEMENT AT THIS MEETING. HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY

CONFIDENT OF OAU BACKING AND SEEMED TO FEEL THAT ENDORSEMENT BY  
THE UNESCO AFRICAN GROUP WAS ASSURANCE OF OAU SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH HE  
CLEARLY SEEMS TO FEEL M'BOW HAS DG SLOT IN BAG, IT WAS CLEAR THAT  
US SUPPORT IS MOST IMPORTANT AND HE WILLINGLY INDICATED  
AWARENESS OF NEED FOR SUPPORT FROM THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR. SENGHOR WAS  
FRIENDLY, VERY PLEASANT AND OPEN.  
IRWIN

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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